

Merriam- Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

ELEVENTH
EDITION



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graffiti *n* [pl. of *graffito*] (1945): usu. unauthorized writing or drawing on a public surface
usage *Graffiti*, which also serves as the plural of *graffito*, is commonly used as a singular mass noun (*graffiti*... was depressing people who rode the subway — *New Yorker*). *Graffiti* comes in various styles — S. Oberbeck. This use is well established although not yet as well established as the mass-noun use of *data*. Use of *graffiti* as a singular noun is still quite rare and is not standard.

graft *vt* [grā-fē-ti, grā-, grā- *n*, pl. -ti] [It, incised inscription, fr. inscription or drawing made on some public surface (as a rock or wall); also: a message or slogan written as or as if as a graffito — *graffiti* -list *n*]

graft *v* (ME *graffe*, *grafe*, fr. AF *greffe*, *graise* stylus, graph, fr. ML *graphium*, fr. L. stylus, fr. Gk *graphein*, fr. *graphein* to write — more at *CARVE*) (14c) 1 a: a grafted plant b: SCION 1 c: the point of insertion of a scion upon a stock 2 a: the act of grafting b: something grafted; *specif*: living tissue used in grafting

graft *vi* (14c) 1 a: to cause (a scion) to unite with a stock; also: to unite (plants or scion and stock) to form a graft b: to propagate (a plant) by grafting 2 a: to join or unite as if by grafting b: to attach (a chemical unit) to a main molecular chain 3: to implant (living tissue) surgically ~ *vi* 1: to become grafted 2: to perform grafting — *graft* -er *n*

graft *n* [B dial. *grat*, vb., to work] (1853) chiefly Brit: WORK, LABOR

graft [origin unknown] *vi* (1859): to get (illicit gain) by graft ~ *vi* 1: to practice graft

graft *n* (1865): the acquisition of gain (as money) in dishonest or questionable ways; also: illegal or unfair gain

graft *age* *v* (grā-tij) *n* (ca. 1895): the principles and practice of grafting

graft *versus* *host* disease *n* (1965): a potentially fatal bodily condition that results when T cells from a tissue or organ transplant and esp. a bone marrow transplant react immunologically against the recipient's antigens attacking cells and tissues

graham cracker *v* (grām-, grā-am- *n* [*graham* flour] (1882): a slightly sweet cracker made of whole wheat flour

graham flour *n* [Sylvester Graham †1851 Am. dietary reformer] (1834): whole wheat flour

grail *v* (grā) *n* (ME *greal*, *grail*, fr. MF, bowl, *grail*, fr. ML *gradalis*) 1

cap: the cup or platter used according to medieval legend by Christ at the Last Supper and thereafter the object of knightly quests 2: the object of an extended or difficult quest

grain *v* (grā) *n* [ME, partly fr. AF *grain* cereal grain, fr. L. *granum*; partly fr. AF *graine* seed, *graine*, fr. L. *grana*, pl. of *granum* — more at *CORN*] (14c) 1 a (1) obs: a single small hard seed (2) a seed or fruit of a cereal grass: CARYOPHYTE b: the seeds or fruits of various food plants including the cereal grasses and in commercial and statutory usage other plants (as the soybean) c: plants producing grain 2 a (1)

a small hard particle or crystal (2) any of the particles produced in a photographic material by its development; also: the size of such grains in the aggregate (3) an individual crystal in a metal b: a

truth 3 a: kermes or a scarlet dye made from it b: cochineal or a brilliant scarlet dye made from it c: a fast dye d *archaic*: COLOR, tinge of a skin or hide 5: a unit of weight based on the weight of a grain of wheat taken as an average of the weight of grains from the inside of the ear — see *WEIGHT* table 6 a: the stratification of the

cells or fibers (the ~ of a rock) c: a texture due to constituent particles or fibers (the ~ of a cloth) 7: the direction of threads in cloth against my ~ b: a basic or characteristic quality c: a prevalent ideology or convention (teaching against the ~) — *grained* *v* (grānd)

grain *less* *adj*

grain *n* (1530) 1: INGRAIN 2: to form into grains: GRANULATE 3

to paint in imitation of the grain of wood or stone 4: to feed with grain ~ *vt* 1: to become granular: GRANULATE — *grain* -er *n*

grain *alcohol* *n* (1883): ETHANOL

grain *elevator* *n* (1852): a building for elevating, storing, discharging, and sometimes processing grain

grain *of salt* (1647): a skeptical attitude

grains *of paradise* (15c): the pungent seeds of a West African plant (*framomum melegueta*) of the ginger family that are used as a spice

grain *sorghum* *n* (1920): any of several sorghums cultivated primarily for grain — compare *SORGO*

grainy *v* (grā-nē) *adj* *grain* -ier, -est (15c) 1: resembling or having some characteristic of grain: not smooth or fine 2 of a photograph

appearing to be composed of grain-like particles — *grain* -iness *n*

grain *n* [obs. Fg (now spelled *grāo*), grain, fr. L. *granum*] (1702)

any of several leguminous plants (as a chickpea) grown esp. for their seed; also: their seeds

gram *n* [F *gramme*, fr. LL *gramma*, a small weight, fr. Gk *gramma*, *gramma* letter, writing, a small weight, fr. *graphein* to write — more at *CARVE*] (1810) 1: a metric unit of mass equal to 1/1000 kilo-

gram and nearly equal to the mass of one cubic centimeter of water at maximum density — see *METRIC SYSTEM* table 2: the weight of a

gram under the acceleration of gravity

gram *n* [by shortening & alter.] (ca. 1934): GRANDMOTHER

gram *abbr* grammar; grammatical

gram *form* [L. *gramma*, fr. Gk, fr. *gramma*]: drawing: writing

gram *n* [chronogram] (telegraph)

gram *n* (grā-mā) *n* [Sp, fr. L. *gramma*, pl. of *gramen* grass] (1828): any

general pasture grasses (genus *Bouteloua*) of the western U.S.

atomic weight *n* (1927): the mass of one mole of an element

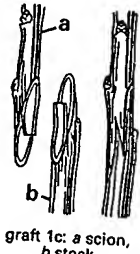
calorie *n* (1902): CALORIE 1a

equivalent *n* (ca. 1897): the quantity of an element, group, or

compound that has a mass in grams equal to the equivalent weight

mercy *v* (grā-mar-sē) *interj* [ME *grand mercy*, fr. AF *grand merci*

[thanka] (14c) *archaic* — used to express gratitude or surprise



graft 1c: a scion, b stock

gram-i-ci-din *v* (grā-mā-si-dīn) *n* [*gram*-positive + *-i-* + *-cide* + *-in*] (1940): any of several toxic crystalline polypeptide antibiotics produced by a soil bacterium (*Bacillus brevis*) and used against gram-positive bacteria in local infections

gram-in-e-ous *v* (grā-mī-nē-əs) *adj* [L. *gramineus*, fr. *gramin-*, *gramen* grass] (ca. 1658): of or relating to a grass

gram-in-v-o-rous *v* (grā-mā-nī-vō-rəs) *adj* [L. *gramin-*, *gramen*] (1739)

feeding on grass or the seeds of grass (~ locusts) (~ birds)

gram-mar *v* (grā-mar) *n* [ME *gramere*, fr. AF *gramaire*, modif. of L. *grammatica*, fr. Gk *grammatikē*, fr. fem. of *grammatikos* of letters, fr. *gramma*, *gramma* — more at *GRAM*] (14c) 1 a: the study of the

classes of words, their inflections, and their functions and relations in the sentence b: a study of what is to be preferred and what avoided in inflection and syntax 2 a: the characteristic system of inflections and syntax of a language b: a system of rules that defines the gram-

matical structure of a language 3 a: a grammar textbook b: speech or writing evaluated according to its conformity to grammatical rules

4: the principles or rules of an art, science, or technique (a ~ of the theater); also: a set of such principles or rules — *gram* -mar-i-an *v* (grā-mar-ē-ən) *n*

grammar school *n* (14c) 1 a: a secondary school emphasizing Latin and Greek in preparation for college b: a British college preparatory school 2: a school intermediate between primary school and high school 3: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

gram-mat-i-cal *v* (grā-mā-tī-kəl) *adj* (1530) 1: of or relating to gram-

mar 2: conforming to the rules of grammar (a ~ sentence) — *gram* -mat-i-cal-i-ty *n* (grā-mā-tī-kā-lē-tē) *n* — *gram* -mat-i-cal-i-ty *n* (grā-mā-tī-kā-lē-tē) *n* — *gram* -mat-i-cal-i-ty *n* (grā-mā-tī-kā-lē-tē) *n*

gram-mat-i-cal-ness *n* (1769): the part of meaning that varies from one inflectional form to another (as from *plays* to *played* to *playing*) — compare *LEXICAL MEANING*

gramme *chiefly Brit* var of *GRAM*

gram molecular weight *n* (ca. 1902): the mass of one mole of a compound equal in grams to the molecular weight — called also *gram-molecule*

Gram-my *v* (grā-mē) *service mark* — used for the annual presentation of a statuette for notable achievement in the recording industry

gram-neg-a-tive *v* (grā-mē-gē-tiv) *adj* (1907): not holding the purple dye when stained by Gram's stain — used chiefly of bacteria

gram-o-phone *v* (grā-mō-fōn) *n* [fr. *Gramophone*, a trademark] (1887): PHONOGRAPH

grams *v* (grāmp) *v* or *gramp* *v* (grāmp) *n*, pl. *gramps* [by shortening & alter.] (ca. 1900): GRANDFATHER 1a

purple dye when stained by Gram's stain — used chiefly of bacteria

gram-pus *v* (grāmp) *n* [alter. of ME *graspey*, *grapy*, fr. AF *graspel*, fr. *gras* fat (fr. L. *crassus*) + *piscis* fish, fr. L. *piscis* — more at *CRASS, FISH*] (ca. 1529) 1: a dolphin (*Grampus griseus*) of temperate and tropical seas; also: any of various small cetaceans 2: the giant whip scorpion (*Mastigoproctus giganteus*) of the southern U.S.

Gram's stain *v* (grām-z) or *Gram stain* *v* (grām-z) *n* [Hans C. J. Gram †1938 Dan. physician] (1903) 1: a method for the differential staining of bacteria by treatment with a watery solution of iodine and the iodide of potassium after staining with a triphenylmethane dye (as crystal violet) — called also *Gram's method* 2: the chemicals used in Gram's stain

gram-vari-able *v* (grām-er-ē-ə-bəl) *adj* (1956): staining irregularly or inconsistently by Gram's stain

gran *v* (grā) *n* (1863): GRANDMOTHER 1

grana *pl* of *GRANUM*

gran-a-dil-la *v* (grā-nā-dī-lā, -dē-(y)-) *n* [Sp, dim. of *granada* pome-

granate, fr. LL *granata* — more at *GRENADINE*] (1613) 1: any of various usu. egg-shaped to football-shaped passion fruits (esp. of *Passiflora*

quadrangularis and *P. edulis*) that have juicy aromatic pulp: a passion-flower that produces granadillas

grana-ry *v* (grā-nā-rē, -rā-) *n*, pl. *-ries* [L. *granarium*, fr. *granum* grain] (1570) 1 a: a storehouse for threshed grain b: a region producing

grain in abundance 2: a chief source or storehouse

grand *v* (grānd) *adj* [AF *grant*, *grand*, large, great, fr. L. *grandis*] (1548) 1 a: having more importance than others: FOREMOST b:

(the ~ champion) 2 a: INCLUSIVE, COMPREHENSIVE (the ~ total of all money paid out) b: DEFINITIVE, INCONTROVERTIBLE (~ extent, or conception (~ design) 5 a: LAVISH, SUMPTUOUS (a ~ celebration) b: marked by a regal form and dignity c: fine or imposing in appearance or impression d: LOFTY, SUBLIME (writing in the ~ style) 6 a: pretending to social superiority: SUPERCILIOUS b: intended to impress (a person of ~ gestures) 7: very good: WONDERFUL (~ a ~ time) — *grand* -ly *v* (grānd-lē) *adv* — *grand* -ness

v (grānd-nəs) *n*

syn GRAND, MAGNIFICENT, IMPOSING, STATELY, MAJESTIC, GRANDIOSE mean large and impressive. GRAND adds to greatness of size the

implications of handsomeness and dignity (a *grand staircase*). MAGNIFICENT implies an impressive largeness proportionate to scale without sacrifice of dignity or good taste (*magnificent paintings*). IMPOSING implies great size and dignity but esp. stresses impressiveness (an imposing edifice). STATELY may suggest poised dignity, erectness of bearing, handsomeness of proportions, ceremonious deliberation of movement (the *stately procession*). MAJESTIC combines the implications of IMPOSING and STATELY and usu. adds a suggestion of solemn exceeding ordinary experience (*grandiose hydroelectric projects*) but is most commonly applied derogatorily to inflated pretension or absurd exaggeration (*grandiose schemes*).

grand *n* (1840) 1: GRAND PIANO 2 *pl* *grand slang*: a thousand dollars

about *v* kitten, F table *v* further *v* ash *v* ace *v* mop, mar
 laid out *v* chin *v* bet *v* easy *v* go *v* hit *v* ice *v* job
 sing *v* go *v* law *v* boy *v* thin *v* the *v* foot *v* foot
 yet *v* vision, beige *v* a, œ, ue, *v* see Guide to Pronunciation

chaku [Jp dial. (Okinawa)] (1970) : a weapon that consists of two hardwood sticks joined at their ends by a short length of rawhide, cord, or chain

nun-cl-a-ture \nun(t)-sə-čhür, 'nün(t)-, -chär, -tyür, -tür/ n [It *nunciatura*, fr. *nuncio*] (1652) 1 : a papal diplomatic mission headed by a nuncio 2 : the office or period of office of a nuncio

nun-clo \nun(t)-sə-čh, 'nün(t)-/ n, pl -cl-os [It, fr. *L nuntius* messenger, message] (1528) : a papal legate of the highest rank permanently accredited to a civil government

nuncle \nun-kəl/ n [by alter. (fr. misdivision of an uncle)] (ca. 1589) chiefly dial : UNCLE

nun-cu-pa-tive \nun-kyü-pä-tiv, 'nən-, 'nən-kyü-pä-/ adj [ML *nuncupatus*, fr. LL, so-called, fr. *L nuncupatus*, pp. of *nuncupare* to name, prob. ultim. fr. *nomen* name + *capere* to take — more at NAME, HEAVE] (1546) : not written : ORAL (a ~ will)

nun-ery \nun-rē, 'nə-nə-/ n, pl -nēr-les (14c) : a convent of nuns

nuc mam \nüt-'äk-'mäm/ n [Vietnamese *nuc mam*, lit., salted fish sauce] (1919) : a sauce made of fish (as anchovies) fermented in brine

nuc-pa \nüt-'pä/ n, pl Nupe or Nupes (1883) : a member of a people of west central Nigeria; also : the language of the Nupe people

nup-tial \nup-shəl, -chəl, +shə-wəl, +chə-wəl/ adj [L *nuptialis*, fr. *nup-tio*, pl, wedding, fr. *nubere* to marry; perh. akin to Gk *nymphē* bride, nymph] (15c) 1 : of or relating to marriage or the marriage ceremony 2 : characteristic of or occurring in the breeding season (~ flight)

nuptial n (ca. 1555) : MARRIAGE, WEDDING — usu. used in pl.

nup-tial-ty \nup-shē-'ä-lä-tē, -chē-/ n, pl -ties (1899) : the marriage rate

Nur-i-stani \nur-ə-'stä-nē, nyür-/ n [Nuristan, Afghanistan] (1951) 1 : a member of a group of peoples of the Hindu Kush in northeastern Afghanistan 2 : the family of languages spoken by the Nuristanis that constitutes a distinct branch of Indo-Iranian

nurse \nurs/ n [ME *norice*, *norice*, *nurse*, fr. AF *nurice*, fr. LL *nutricia*, fr. L, fem. of *nutricius* nourishing — more at NUTRITIOUS] (13c) 1 a : a woman who suckles an infant not her own : WET NURSE b : a woman who takes care of a young child : DRY NURSE 2 : one that looks after, fosters, or advises 3 : a person who cares for the sick or infirm; specif : a licensed health-care professional who practices independently or is supervised by a physician, surgeon, or dentist and who is skilled in promoting and maintaining health — compare LICENSED NURSE, REGISTERED NURSE 4 a : a worker form of a social insect (as an ant or a bee) that cares for the young b : a female mammal used to suckle the young of another

nurse to nurse; nurse-ing [ME *nurshen* to suckle, nourish, contr. of *nurshen*] vt (14c) 1 a : to nourish at the breast : SUCKLE b : to take nourishment from the breast of 2 : REAR, EDUCATE 3 a : to promote the development or progress of b : to manage with care or economy (nursed the business through hard times) (nursed a 1-0 lead) c : to take charge of and watch over 4 a : to care for and wait on (as a sick person) b : to attempt to cure by care and treatment 5 : to hold in one's memory or consideration (~ a grievance) 6 a : to use, handle, or operate carefully so as to conserve energy or avoid injury or pain (~ a sprained ankle) b : to use sparingly c : to consume slowly or over a long period (~ a cup of coffee) ~ vi 1 a : to feed an offspring from the breast b : to feed at the breast : SUCK 2 : to act or serve as a nurse — nurse-er n

nurse-maid \nurs-'mäd/ n (1657) : a girl or woman who is regularly employed to look after children

nurse-mid-wife \nurs-'mid-'wif/ n (1952) : a registered nurse with additional training as a midwife who delivers infants and provides prenatal and postpartum care, newborn care, and some routine care (as gynecological exams) of women — nurse-mid-wife-ry \nurs-'mid-'wi-f(ə)-rē, -wif-/ n

nurse-prac-ti-tion-er \prak-'ti-sh(ə)-när/ n (1969) : a registered nurse who is qualified through advanced training to assume some of the duties and responsibilities formerly assumed only by a physician

nurse-ry \nurs-rē, 'när-sä-/ n, pl -er-les (14c) 1 obs : attentive care : FOSTERAGE 2 a : a child's bedroom b : a place where children are temporarily cared for in their parents' absence c : DAY NURSERY 3 a : something that fosters, develops, or promotes b : a place in which persons are trained or educated 4 : an area where plants are grown for transplanting, for use as stocks for budding and grafting, or for sale 5 : a place where young animals grow or are cared for

nurse-ry-man \nurs-'mən/ n (1672) : one whose occupation is the cultivation of plants (as trees and shrubs) esp. for sale

nursery rhyme n (1816) : a short rhyme for children that often tells a story

nursery school n (1835) : a school for children usu. under five years

nurse's aide n (1943) : a worker who assists trained nurses in a hospital by performing unspecialized services (as giving baths)

nurse shark n [alter. of *nusse*] (1851) : any of various sharks (as family *Ginglymostomatidae*); esp : a shark (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*) of warm waters

nursing n (1860) 1 : the profession of a nurse (schools of ~) 2 : the duties of a nurse (proper ~ is difficult work)

nursing home n (1896) : a privately operated establishment providing maintenance and personal or nursing care for persons (as the aged or the chronically ill) who are unable to care for themselves properly

nurse-ling \nurs-ling/ n (1557) 1 : one that is solicitously cared for 2 : a nursing child

nur-tur-ance \nur-čə-rən(t)s/ n (ca. 1938) : affectionate care and attention — nur-tur-ant \nur-tər-/ adj

nur-ture \nur-čər/ n [ME *nurture*, *nurture*, fr. AF *nurture*, fr. LL *nurtura* act of nursing, fr. *L nutritus*, pp. of *nutrire* to suckle, nourish — more at NOURISH] (14c) 1 : TRAINING, UPRISING 2 : something that nourishes : FOOD 3 : the sum of the environmental factors influencing the behavior and traits expressed by an organism

nurture vt nur-tured; nur-tur-ing \nur-čə-rin, 'nur-čə-/ (15c) 1 : to supply with nourishment 2 : EDUCATE 3 : to further the development of : FOSTER — nur-tur-er \nur-čər-/ n

nut \nut/ n [ME *nute*, *note*, fr. OE *hnutt*; akin to OHG *nuz* nut and perh. to *L nux* nut] (bef. 12c) 1 a (1) : a hard-shelled dry fruit or seed with a separable rind or shell and interior kernel (2) : the kernel of a nut b : a dry indehiscent one-seeded fruit with a woody pericarp 2 a : a hard problem or undertaking b : CORE, HEART 3 : a perforated

block usu. of metal that has an internal screw thread and is used on a bolt or screw for tightening or holding something 4 : the ridge in a stringed instrument (as a violin) over which the strings pass on the upper end of the fingerboard 5 : a small jump (as of butter) 6 a : a foolish, eccentric, or crazy person b : ENTHUSIAST (a movie ~) 7 pl : NONSENSE — often used interjectionally 8 slang : a person's head 9 usu. vulgar : TESTIS 10 : the amount of money that must be earned in order to break even 11 : EVIL — nut-like \-lik/ adj

nut vt nut-ted; nut-ting (1604) : to gather or seek nuts

nu-tate \nu-tät, 'nyü-/ v nu-tat-ed; nu-tat-ing (1880) : to exhibit or undergo nutation

nu-ta-tion \nu-tä-shən, nyü-/ n [L *nutatio*, *nutatio*, fr. *nutare* to nod, rock — more at NUMEN] (1612) 1 archaic : the act of nodding to the head 2 : oscillatory movement of the axis of a rotating body (as the earth) : WOBBLE 3 : a spontaneous usu. spiral movement of a growing plant part — nu-ta-tion-al \-shənəl, -shə-nəl/ adj

nut-brown \nut-'braun/ adj (14c) : of the color of a brown nut

nut-case \-käs/ n (1559) : NUT 6a

nut-crack-er \-krä-kər/ n (ca. 1548) : an implement for cracking nuts

nut-gall \-göl/ n (15c) : a gall that resembles a nut; esp : such a gall produced on oaks

nut grass n (1775) : a perennial sedge (*Cyperus rotundus*) of wide distribution that has slender rootstocks bearing small edible tubers resembling nuts; also : a related sedge (*C. esculentus*)

nut-hatch \nut-'hach/ n [ME *notehache*, fr. *note* nut + *hache*; akin to OE *to haccian* to hack — more at HACK] (14c) : any of various small tree-climbing chiefly insectivorous birds (family Sittidae and esp. genus *Sitta*) that have a compact body, a narrow bill, a short tail, and sometimes a black cap

nut-house \nut-'haus/ n (1900) slang : a mental hospital

nut-let \nut-'lət/ n (1856) 1 a : a small nut b : a small fruit similar to a nut 2 : the stone of a drupelet

nut-meg \nut-'meg, -mäg/ n [ME *notemigge*, *notemuge*, ultim. fr. Old Occitan *noz muscada*, fr. *noz* nut (fr. *L nuc-*, *nux*) + *muscada*, fem. of *muscat* musky — more at MUSCAT] (15c) 1 : an aromatic seed produced by an evergreen tree (*Myristica fragrans* of the family Myristicaceae, the nutmeg family) native to the Moluccas; also : the ground seed used as a spice — compare MACE 2 2 : a tree yielding nutmeg

nut-pick \nut-'pik/ n (1862) : a small sharp-pointed implement for extracting the kernels from nuts

nu-tra-ceu-ti-cal also nu-tri-ceu-ti-cal \nu-trä-'sü-ti-kəl/ n [nutritive + pharmaceutical] (1990) : a foodstuff (as a fortified food or dietary supplement) that provides health benefits in addition to its basic nutritional value

nu-tria \nu-trä-rä, 'nyü-/ n [AmerSp, fr. Sp, otter, modif. of *L lutra*; prob. akin to OE *oter* otter] (1820) 1 : the durable usu. light brown fur of a nutria 2 : a large So. American semiaquatic rodent (*Myocastor coypus*) with webbed hind feet and a round nearly hairless tail that has been introduced into parts of Europe, Asia, and No. America

nu-tri-ent \nu-trē-ent, 'nyü-/ adj [L *nutrient*, *nutrient*, prp. of *nutrire* to nourish — more at NOURISH] (1650) : furnishing nourishment

nutrient n (ca. 1828) : a nutritive substance or ingredient

nu-tri-ment \nu-trä-mənt, 'nyü-/ n [ME, fr. *L nutrimentum*, fr. *nutrire*] (15c) : something that nourishes or promotes growth, provides energy, repairs body tissues, and maintains life

nu-tri-tion \nu-tri-shən, nyü-/ n [ME *nutricion*, fr. LL *nutritio*, *nutritio*, fr. *L nutrire*] (15c) 1 : the act or process of nourishing or being nourished; specif : the sum of the processes by which an animal or plant takes in and utilizes food substances 2 : NOURISHMENT 1 — nu-tri-tion-al \-trish-nəl, -trish-nəl/ adj — nu-tri-tion-al-ly adv

nu-tri-tion-ist \nu-tri-sh(ə)-nə-/ n (1926) : a specialist in the study of nutrition

nu-tri-tious \nu-tri-shəs, nyü-/ adj [L *nutritivus*, fr. *nutric-*, *nutrix* nurse, fr. *nutrire* to nourish — more at NOURISH] (1665) : NOURISHING — nu-tri-tious-ly adv — nu-tri-tious-ness n

nu-tri-tive \nu-trä-tiv, 'nyü-/ adj (14c) 1 : of or relating to nutrition 2 : NOURISHING — nu-tri-tive-ly adv

nutritive ratio n (1897) : the ratio of digestible protein to other nutrients in a foodstuff or ration

nuts \nuts/ adj (1785) 1 : ENTHUSIASTIC, KEEN (~ for animals and children — Rick Reilly) 2 : INSANE, CRAZY (said that it was a novel and all the people who said otherwise were ~ — Flannery O'Connor)

nuts and bolts n (1967) 1 : the working parts or elements 2 : the practical workings of a machine or enterprise as opposed to theoretical considerations or speculative possibilities — nuts-and-bolts adj

nut-sedge \nut-'sedj/ n (ca. 1909) : NUT GRASS

nut-shell \nut-'shel/ n (13c) 1 : the hard external covering in which the kernel of a nut is enclosed 2 : something of small size, amount, or scope — in a nutshell : in a very brief statement

nut-ter \nut-'tər/ n (1958) slang Brit : NUT 6a

nut-ty \nut-'tē/ adj nut-ty-er; -est (15c) 1 : having or producing nuts 2 : having a flavor like that of nuts 3 : ECCENTRIC, SILLY; also : mentally unbalanced — nut-ty-ly \-tē-lē/ adv — nut-ty-ness n

Nuu-Chah-Nulth also Nuu Chah Nulth \nu-'chā-nül/ n, pl Nuu-Chah-Nulth also Nuu Chah Nulth [Nootka *nučānəl*, lit., all along the mountains] (1979) : NOOTKA

nux vom-i-ca \naks-'vā-mi-kə/ n, pl nux vomica [NL, lit., emetic nut] (14c) 1 : the poisonous disk-shaped seed of a tree (*Strychnos nuxvomica* of the family Loganiaceae) of southern Asia that contains several alkaloids and esp. strychnine and brucine; also : the tree yielding nux vomica 2 : a drug containing nux vomica



nuthatch

\ə/ about \ə/ kitten, F table \ər/ further \ə/ ash \ə/ ace \ə/ mop, mar \əd/ out \ch/ chin \e/ bet \ē/ easy \ə/ go \ə/ hit \ə/ ice \ə/ job \ə/ sing \ə/ go \ə/ law \ə/ boy \ə/ thin \ə/ the \ə/ loot \ə/ foot \ə/ yet \ə/ vision, beige \k, ɔ, ce, ue, ʌ/ see Guide to Pronunciation

ve-da-lia \vī-dāl-yə/ *n* [NL, genus name] (1889): an Australian ladybug (*Rodolia cardinalis*) introduced to many countries to control scale insects — called also *vedalia beetle*

Ve-dan-ta \vā-dān-tə, vō-, -dān-/ *n* [Skt *Vedānta*, lit. end of the Veda, fr. *Veda* + *anta* end; akin to OE *ende* end] (1788): an orthodox system of Hindu philosophy developing esp. in a qualified monism the speculations of the Upanishads on ultimate reality and the liberation of the soul — **Ve-dan-tism** \vā-dān-tī-zəm, -dān-/ *n* — **Ve-dan-tist** \vā-dān-tist, -dān-/ *n*

Ve-dan-tic \vā-dān-tik, -dān-/ *adj* (1882): 1: of or relating to the Vedanta philosophy 2: **VEDIC**

Ved-da or **Ved-dah** \və-də/ *n* [Sinhalese *vedda* hunter] (1681): a member of an aboriginal people of Sri Lanka

Ved-dold \və-dōld/ *n* (1928): a member of a race of southern Asia traditionally classified by such physical features as wavy to curly hair, chocolate-brown skin color, and slender body build — **Veddold** *adj*

ve-dette or **vi-dette** \vī-det/ *n* [F, fr. It *vedetta*, alter. of *velletta*, prob. fr. Sp *vela* watch, fr. *velar* to keep watch, fr. L *vigilare* to wake, prob. fr. *vigil* awake — more at **VIGIL**] (ca. 1611): a mounted sentinel stationed in advance of pickets

Ve-dic \vā-dik/ *adj* (1848): of or relating to the Vedas, the language in which they are written, or Hindu history and culture between 500 B.C. and 500 B.C.

vee \və-/ *n* (ca. 1883): 1: something shaped like the letter V 2: the letter V

vee-jay \və-jā/ *n* [video jockey] (ca. 1981): an announcer of a program (as on television) that features music videos

veena *n* or **VINA**

veep \vəp/ *n* [fr. v. p. (abbr. for *vice president*)] (1949): **VICE PRESIDENT**

veer \vīr/ *v* [ME *veren*, of LG or D origin; akin to MD *veren* to slacken, MLG *veren*] (15c): to let out (as a rope)

veer *v* [ME *veren*, fr. MF *vire*, fr. OF, to throw with a twisting motion, fr. VL *vīrare*, alter. of L *vibrare* to wave, propel suddenly — more at **VIBRATE**] (15c): 1: to change direction or course (the economy ~ed sharply downward) 2: of the wind: to shift in a clockwise direction — compare **BACK** 3: to wear ship ~ *v*: to direct to a different course; *specif*: **WEAR** 7 *syn* see **SWERVE** — **veering-ly** \vī-ŋ-lē/ *adv*

veer *n* (ca. 1611): a change in course or direction (a ~ to the right)

vee-ry \vīr-ē/ *n*, pl **veeries** [prob. imit.] (1838): an American thrush (*Catharus fuscescens*) common in the eastern U.S.

veg \vɛj/ *n*, pl **veg** (1918) *chiefly Brit*: **VEGETABLE**

Ve-ga \və-gə, -vā-/ *n* [NL, fr. Ar (*al-Nasr*) *al-Wāqī*, lit. the falling (vulture)] (ca. 1638): the brightest star in the constellation Lyra

veg-an \və-gən/ *also* \vā-*also* \və-jən or -jan/ *n* [by contr. fr. *vegetarian*] (1944): a strict vegetarian who consumes no animal food or dairy products; *also*: one who abstains from using animal products (as leather) — **vegan** *adj* — **veg-an-ism** \və-gən-iz-əm, -vā-gə-, -və-jən-/ *n*

veg-e-ta-ble \vɛj-tə-bəl, -və-jə-/ *adj* [ME, fr. ML *vegetabilis* vegetative, fr. *vegetare* to grow, fr. L, to animate, fr. *vegetus* lively, fr. *vegere* to enliven — more at **WAKE**] (15c): 1: of, relating to, constituting, or growing like plants 2: consisting of plants: **VEGETATIONAL** 2

made from, obtained from, or containing plants or plant products (~ soup) (~ fat) 3: resembling or suggesting a plant (as in inertness or passivity)

vegetable *n* (15c): 1: **PLANT** 1b 2: a usu. herbaceous plant (as the cabbage, bean, or potato) grown for an edible part that is usu. eaten as part of a meal; *also*: such an edible part 3: a person whose mental and physical functioning is severely impaired and esp. one who requires supportive measures (as mechanical ventilation) to survive

vegetable ivory *n* (1842): the hard white opaque endosperm of the ivory nut that takes a high polish and is used as a substitute for ivory 2: **IVORY NUT**

vegetable marrow *n* (ca. 1816) *chiefly Brit*: any of various smooth-skinned elongated summer squashes with creamy-white to deep green skins

vegetable oil *n* (1765): an oil of plant origin; *esp*: a fatty oil from seeds or fruits

vegetable oyster *n* (ca. 1818): **SALISFY**

vegetable pear *n* (1887): **CHAYOTE**

vegetable wax *n* (1815): a wax of plant origin secreted commonly in thin flakes by the walls of epidermal cells

veg-e-ta-bly \vɛj-tə-blē, -və-jə-/ *adv* or *adj* (1651): in the manner of or like a vegetable

veg-e-tal \vɛj-təl/ *adj* [ML *vegetare* to grow] (15c): 1: **VEGETABLE** 2: **VEGETATIVE** 3: of or relating to the vegetal pole of an egg or to that part of an egg from which the endoderm normally develops (~ blastomeres)

vegetal pole *n* (1896): the point on the surface of an egg that is diametrically opposite to the animal pole and usu. marks the center of the protoplasm containing more yolk — see **BLASTULA** illustration

veg-e-tar-i-an \və-jə-tər-ē-ən/ *n* [*vegetable* + *-arian*] (1839): 1: one who believes in or practices vegetarianism 2: **HERBIVORE**

vegetarian *adj* (1849): 1: of or relating to vegetarians 2: consisting wholly of vegetables, fruits, grains, nuts, and sometimes eggs or dairy products (a ~ diet)

veg-e-tar-i-an-ism \və-jə-tər-ē-iz-əm/ *n* (ca. 1851): the theory or practice of living on a vegetarian diet

veg-e-tate \vɛj-tāt/ *vb* \-tāt-ed, -tāt-ing/ [ML *vegetatus*, pp. of *vegetare* to grow] (1605): 1: to grow in the manner of a plant; *also*: to grow exuberantly or with proliferation of fleshy or warty outgrowths 2: to produce vegetation 3: to lead a passive existence without exertion of body or mind ~ *vi*: to establish vegetation in or on

veg-e-ta-tion \vɛj-tā-shən/ *n* (1564): 1: the act or process of vegetating 2: inert existence 3: plant life or total plant cover (as of an area) 4: an abnormal growth upon a body part (fibrin ~s on the mitral valve) — **veg-e-ta-tion-al** \-shənəl, -shə-nəl/ *adj*

veg-e-ta-tive \vɛj-tā-tiv/ *adj* (14c): 1: growing or having the power of growing 2: of, relating to, or engaged in nutritive and growth functions as contrasted with reproductive functions (a ~ nucleus) 3: promoting plant growth (the ~ properties of soil) 4: of, relating to, or involving propagation by nonsexual processes or methods 2: relating to, composed of, or suggesting vegetation. 3: of or

relating to the division of nature comprising the plant kingdom 4: **AUTONOMIC** 1 b: characterized by, resulting from, or being a state of severe mental impairment in which only involuntary bodily functions are sustained 5: **VEGETABLE** 3 — **veg-e-ta-tive-ly** *adv* — **veg-e-ta-tive-ness** *n*

ve-gete \və-jet/ *adj* [L *vegetus* — more at **VEGETABLE**] (1639) *archaic*: **LIVELY, HEALTHY**

veg-gle *also* **veg-le** \və-jē/ *n* [by shortening & alter.] (1955): 1: **VEGETABLE** 2: *slang*: **VEGETARIAN**

veggie burger *n* (1972): a patty chiefly of vegetable-derived protein used as a meat substitute; *also*: a sandwich containing such a patty

veg out \vɛj-/ *vi* **vegged out**; **veg-ging out** [short for *vegetate*] (1980): to spend time idly or passively

ve-he-mence \və-mən(t)s/ *n* (15c): the quality or state of being vehement: **INTENSITY**

ve-he-ment \və-mənt/ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *vehement*, *vehemens*, *vehemens*, *vehemens*] (15c): marked by forceful energy: **POWERFUL** (a ~ wind): as a: intensely emotional: **IMPASSIONED, FERVID** (~ patriotism) b (1): deeply felt (a ~ suspicion) (2): forcibly expressed (~ denunciations) c: bitterly antagonistic (a ~ debate) — **ve-he-ment-ly** *adv*

ve-hi-cle \və-hī-kəl/ *also* \və-hī-kəl/ *n* [F *véhicule*, fr. L *vehiculum* carriage, conveyance, fr. *vehere* to carry — more at **WAY**] (1612): 1: an inert medium (as a syrup) in which a medicinally active agent is administered 2: any of various media acting usu. as solvents, carriers, or binders for active ingredients or pigments 3: an agent of transmission: **CARRIER** 4: a medium through which something is expressed, achieved, or displayed (an investment ~); *esp*: a work created esp. to display the talents of a particular performer 5: a means of carrying or transporting something (planes, trains, and other ~s): as a: **MOTOR VEHICLE** b: a piece of mechanized equipment

ve-hi-cu-lar \və-hī-kyə-lər/ *adj* (1616): 1: of, relating to, or designed for vehicles and esp. motor vehicles 2: transported by vehicle c: caused by or resulting from the operation of a vehicle (~ hospital-icide) 2: serving as a vehicle

V-8 \və-āt-/ *n* (1930): an internal combustion engine having two banks of four cylinders each with the banks at an angle to each other; *also*: an automobile having such an engine

vell \vəl/ *n* [ME, fr. AF *vell*, *velle*, fr. L *vella*, pl. of *velum* sail, awning, curtain] (13c): 1: a length of cloth worn by women as a covering for the head and shoulders and often esp. in Eastern countries for the face; *specif*: the outer covering of a nun's headdress 2: a length of veiling or netting worn over the head or face or attached for protection or ornament to a hat or headdress (a bridal ~) 3: any of various liturgical cloths; *esp*: a cloth used to cover the chalice 2: the life of a nun — often used in the phrase *take the veil* 3: a concealing curtain or cover of cloth 4: something that resembles a veil (a ~ of stars); *esp*: something that hides or obscures like a veil (lift the ~ of secrecy) 5: a covering body part or membrane: as a: **VELUM** b: **CAUL**

veil \vɛl/ (14c): to cover, provide, obscure, or conceal with or as if with a veil ~ *vi*: to put on or wear a veil

veiled \vəld/ *adj* (14c): 1: having or wearing a veil or a concealing cover (a ~ hat) 2: characterized by a softening tonal distortion 2: obscured as if by a veil: **DISGUISED** (~ threats)

veil-ing \və-lɪŋ/ *n* (13c): 1: any of various light sheer fabrics 2: **VEIL**

vein \vaɪn/ *n* [ME *veine*, fr. AF, fr. L *vena*] (14c): 1: a narrow water channel in rock or earth or in ice 2 (1): **LODE** 2 (2): a bed of useful mineral matter c: **LODE** 3 2: **BLOOD VESSEL**; *esp*: any of the tubular branching vessels that carry blood from the capillaries toward the heart 3: any of the vascular bundles forming the framework of a leaf 4: any of the thickened cuticular ribs that serve to stiffen the wings of an insect 5: something suggesting veins (as in reticulation); *specif*: a wavy variegation (as in marble) 6: a distinctive mode of expression: **STYLE** (stories in a romantic ~) 7: a distinctive element or quality: **STRAIN** (introduced a welcome ~ of humor) c: a line of thought or action (renewed discussion along the same ~) 6: a special aptitude (inherited artistic ~) b: a usu. transitory and casually attained mood c: top form (thou troublest me; I am not in the ~ — Shak.) — **vein-al** \vā-nəl/ *adj*

vein *v* (1502): to pattern with or as if with veins

veined \vānd/ *adj* (ca. 1529): patterned with or as if with veins: having venation: **STREAKED** (a ~ leaf) (~ marble) (~ cheese)

vein-er \vā-nər/ *n* (1895): a small V gouge used in wood carving

vein-ing \vā-nɪŋ/ *n* (1826): a pattern of veins: **VENATION**

vein-let \vān-lət/ *n* (1831): a small vein

veiny \vā-nē/ *adj* (1611): full of veins: noticeably veined (~ hands)

vel *abbr* velocity

ve-la-men \və-lā-mən/ *n*, pl **ve-lam-i-na** \-lā-mə-nə/ [NL, fr. L, covering, fr. *velare* to cover, fr. *velum* curtain] (1882): the thick corky epidermis of aerial roots of an epiphytic orchid that absorbs water from the atmosphere

ve-lar \və-lər/ *adj* [NL *velaris*, fr. *velum*] (1876): 1: formed with the back of the tongue touching or near the soft palate (the ~ *vel* of *kill*) 2: of, forming, or relating to a velum and esp. the soft palate — **velar** *n*

ve-lar-i-um \və-lər-ē-əm/ *n*, pl **ve-lar-i-a** \-ē-ə/ [L, fr. *velum* curtain] (1834): an awning over an ancient Roman theater or amphitheater

ve-lar-i-za-tion \və-lər-ē-zā-shən/ *n* (1915): 1: the quality or state of being velarized 2: an act or instance of velarizing

ve-lar-ize \və-lər-īz/ *vi* \-īz-ed, -īz-ing/ (1915): to modify (as the *V* of *pull* pool) by a simultaneous velar articulation

Vel-cro \vɛl-(k)krō/ *trademark* — used for a closure consisting of a piece of fabric of small hooks that sticks to a corresponding fabric of small loops

veld or **veldt** \velt, -fɛlt/ *n* [Afrik *veld*, fr. D, field; akin to OB *feld* field] (1835): a grassland esp. of southern Africa usu. with scattered shrubs or trees

ve-li-ger \və-lī-jər, -və-/ *n* [NL, fr. *velum* + *-ger* bearing, fr. *gerere* to bear] (1877): a larval mollusk in the stage when it has developed the velum

vel-le-lity \və-lē-lē-tē, -və-/ *n*, pl **-ities** [NL *velletas*, fr. L *velle* to wish, will — more at **WILL**] (1618): 1: the lowest degree of volition 2: a slight wish or tendency: **INCLINATION**

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